

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

NOVEMBER 2009

Four S. Carolina Radio Amateurs Killed in Plane Crash

Just after take-off -- around 6:30 AM on Wednesday, October 21 -- a twin-engine plane carrying four Amateur Radio operators crashed into the woods, only 250 yards off the end of the runway in Jedburg, South Carolina, about 20 miles northwest of Charleston. The plane -- piloted and owned by Peter Radding, W2GJ -- carried Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dallas Carter, W3PP, and Randy Hargenrader, K4QO. The four men were on their way to the Bahamas to operate in this weekend's CQ World Wide Phone Contest as C6APR, competing in the Multi/2 category. Radding, of North Charleston, South Carolina, was 69; Steeble, of Summerville, South Carolina was 68; Carter, of Laurel, Delaware, was 67 and Hargenrader, also of Summerville, was 55. All were ARRL



Members of ARC and GARS participated in a Special Event Station in October to commemorate the annual visit of the Aluminum Overcast to Gwinnett County's Briscoe Field. The event was sponsored by EAA

members; Radding and Steeble were Life Members. Click here for more information.

Robert Biss, W8ZA, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, accompanied Steeble, Carter and Radding to the Bahamas for the 2008 running of the CQWW SSB Contest.

A Ham Question

Submitted by: Harold Hawkins KD8DVY

As we become ham operators and increase our knowledge of this hobby we ask a multitude of questions. Our questions range from, what is the best antenna, what is a good radio, how do I do PSK, and such? We also ask about having special interest groups and gatherings outside of our regular monthly meetings. This is no different except that it is directed more to a specific person.

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—2009 ARC Executive Committee —

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Meetings

Monthly ARC Meeting

Thursday November 5, 2009

730PM Red Cross Head Quarters Monroe Drive

The Atlanta Radio Club is pleased to announce that our November speaker will be John Davis, WB4QDX, who will present a program entitled "Introduction to D-Star".

Topics to be presented include:

- what D-Star is
- how it compares to analog FM
- what it takes to get involved
- how it can be used for things like the SE D-Star Weather Net (with some history about the net)
- some of the advanced features like text messaging and D-star Data
- history and update of the Georgia ARES / GPB arrangement

Upcoming Events

Second Sunday Tech Session

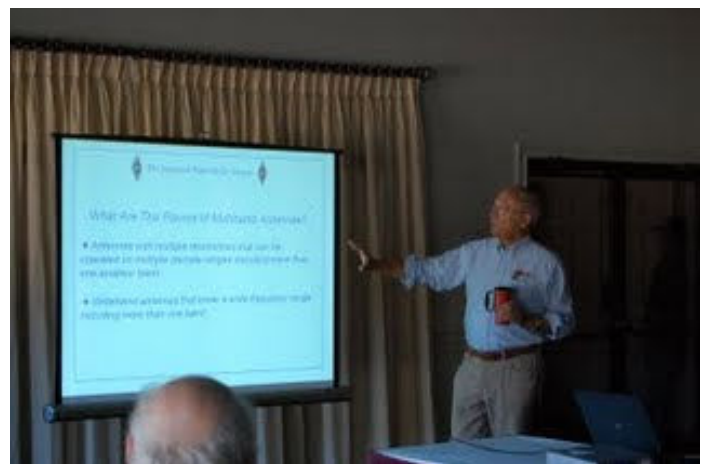
There will be no Tech Session this month due to the fact the everyone will be recovering from the Lawrenceville Hamfest

Joel Hallas W1ZR coming to Atlanta

The Doctor will be in. That's Joel Hallas, W1ZR, the technical editor of QST and author of the "Doctor is In" column.

Please join hams from around the local area as we host Joel for a very special joint club meeting on this Thursday, November 19th, at 7:30 PM at Roswell City Hall. There will be plenty of seating for everyone. Here is a map to city hall: <http://tinyurl.com/yefqxr>. There will be talk in on 145.47 (-) PL 100.

As an added attraction, you will have the opportunity to win a Yaesu FT-857D at the meeting. Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be available at the meeting and you must be present to win.



Please join hams from around the Atlanta area as we give Joel a warm welcome.

73 Mack de WB4MAK

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm
2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or w9qo@arrl.net Fee \$10
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and
the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at
the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,
5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Avenue
Contact: David Still WB4RRD
wb4rrd@gmail.com

Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge #131
465 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville, GA
Contact: Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV
kf4tqv@charter.net

Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

Sunday Night Net: All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

9 January 2010

TechFest - Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS)
<http://www.gars.org> Talk-In: 147.075 (PL 82.5)

27 February 2010

Dalton Hamfest - Dalton Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.daltonhamfest.com> Talk-In: 145.230(-) No Tone

5 June 2010

ARRL Georgia Section Convention — Atlanta Hamfest
Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC)
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

Barrow Amateur Radio Emergency Services club to host a General Class License class in January

A General Class is forming now for late January 2010. Details are still being finalized for meeting location, class dates and times. The class will meet once a week for 12 weeks. The study/course material will be the ARRL General Class textbook available through the club for \$24.95. Those interested in registering for the class, contact Cal Neff, K4JSR, at (678) 227-3229 or e-mail, cneff1@windstream.net.

D-Star Registration

One of the less glamorous and more overlooked aspects of D-Star is user registration.

Bert Bruner
KE4FOV

Since it is possible to access D-Star repeaters without transmitting RF first, user registration is necessary to make sure that all operators are properly licensed.

You can use the repeater locally without registering. It's only required when you connect to another repeater, reflector or dongle through the Internet gateway. It's a process that was developed after the basic design of the radios was complete and is generally not included in the radio manuals. New users often are not aware that it is necessary.

You only have to register once. The information is copied to a central database and then distributed to pretty much all D-Star repeaters world-wide. (There are a few exceptions to this rule. For example, the Japanese government requires that their system be separate.)

As I said above, if all you want to do is talk on the local repeater, it's not necessary to register, but it's a good idea anyway. Suppose you are in the middle of a local QSO and somebody links into the repeater from a re-

mote system. The remote user will hear the registered users, but will not hear unregistered users. So if you're in a 3-way roundtable and the other two users are registered but you are not, when the remote user joins the discussion, he won't even know you are there. You may never get another turn.

The first step of the registration process is pretty sim-

For users of Atlanta Radio Club repeaters (and other Georgia D-Star users), just go to <https://w4doc.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do>

and select the REGISTER button. You will be asked to provide your call sign, name, e-mail address and a password. All of these are critical. You will be notified by

Continued D-Star, page 5

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeater (Bank of America Tower)

**145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B
1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D**

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

**145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B
1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D**

The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!

PO Box 84107
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA
(225) 757-1545 Phone
225-208-1545 Fax
Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN
[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)



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Repeater to get a makeover

The workhorse of W4DOC, the 146.820 Repeater is the greatest repeater to hang out on;

**Harold Hawkins
KD8DVY**

however, as a group we know the problems

the 820 machine has given us since the loss of the remote site that was located at the Water Tower off of Jimmy Carter and I-85. So when Bill Perkins/KB4KFT was re-elected as president of ARC, his first order of business was to fix 820 Machine.

At the first meeting of the repeater committee it was decided that we would get the 820 machine back to the point of where it was three years ago and to eventually make it better. We made plans to visit the BOA (Bank Of America) tower in downtown Atlanta. While there, Pen K4PE, our repeater trustee gave us the grand tour. We began cleaning up the room, we also made a temporary fix to the receive side of the Sweat Mountain link which caused the repeater to hear and transmit better.

A special thanks goes out to Pen for the tour and putting the repeater together for us years ago. So if and when you see him please give him a hearty ham thank you.

The next step in our repair

plan of the 820 machine is to get the Gwinnett remote site up. We have received all the parts that we need to begin testing so please bare with us as we continue to work on the system and bring it back up and on line.

D-STAR, continued from page 4

email after your call sign and name have been verified.

Then you'll need to go back to the registration web page and log in with your password. This time you'll select "Personal Information" Your call sign will be assigned several IP addresses. Select the first one and change the "Initial" box from blank to space. At first, this doesn't really make much sense, but the value of the Initial will be appended to your call sign in the system. Using a space just makes everything easier. In most cases, that's all you'll need. If you want to do call sign routing between two radios or you have a radio that's dedicated to DPRS (the D-Star version of APRS), you'll need define other

"Initials", but in the beginning, just use the space.

Once this page is submitted, you may have to wait an hour or two for your registration to be distributed to all the repeater gateways. Then you are ready to "Rock and Roll".

You can find more detailed instructions and screen-shots at http://www.dstargateway.org/D-Star_Registration.html.

For more information about how to link repeaters, have a look at the "D-Star, D-Star" article in the September 2009 issue of [Atlanta Ham](#). An upcoming article will have more details about how linking works behind the scenes.

Ham Question, continued from page 1

For all those who know WLIZ/N0LIZ/W4LIZ/K4LIZ or just plain LIZ, this question is for her. Lets see how she answers. LIZ I know we have talked about this and never had any definite decision or agreement well Liz the question is:

WILL YOU MARRY ME?

Love, Harold

John Talipsky N3ACK
The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.
385 Madison Chase Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

MEETING NOTICE - THURS NOV 5, 2009



TH F6A



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate EVERY DAY! The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

KENWOOD
Listen to the Future